

MICHAEL PETERS

Okarche, Oklahoma



U.S. WHEAT
ASSOCIATES ■ ■
Candidate for U.S. Wheat Officer Team ■ ■



Michael Peters has been involved in food production the past 28 years — raising wheat, cattle, canola, sesame and milo on his family farm in central Oklahoma. His experience serving different areas of the agricultural industry, whether at the local, county, state or national level shows his commitment to move our wheat industry forward, both domestically and internationally.

◆ International Experience with Local Values ◆



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Candidate for U.S. Wheat Officer Team



Oklahoma Wheat Commission

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Dear U.S. Wheat Producer,

I know for many, harvest and planting during this 2019 season has had its challenges, but I hope this letter finds you well. I want to take this opportunity to let you know that I'm running for a U.S. Wheat officer position for Region #2 for the 2020 election. This region consists of Kansas, Maryland, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma and Texas.

For the past six years, I've served on the Oklahoma Wheat Commission board of directors as Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer, while also serving on the U.S. Wheat Board of Directors during the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 periods. After much discussion with my family and a second appointment to the OWC, I am fully committed in helping our industry move forward if given a chance to serve in a larger capacity.

As an individual running a wheat farming operation the past 28 years in central Oklahoma, I feel extremely fortunate to have had the ability to carry on my family's farming operation that was established in 1907. Having been given this chance, I have had the wonderful opportunity to serve in different leadership positions for the agricultural and wheat industry, both nationally and internationally. During my time on the OWC Board and while serving for the U.S. Wheat Associates as a member of the Board of Directors, Chairman of the Wheat Quality Committee or committee member for Joint International Trade, I've seen firsthand the importance and significant role our commodity boards play when it comes to marketing our product into the international market place. I've also seen the prominence placed on biotech and research initiatives that will make us more competitive in the future when it comes to growing the highest quality wheat worldwide.

My experiences at the local, county and state levels include serving on the Board of Directors and past Chairman of CHS/Harvest States, which is responsible for eight grain elevator locations in our region of central Oklahoma. Our family is a member of the Canadian County Farm Bureau and Canadian County Cattlemen's Association. We've served as a volunteer cooperator of wheat research plots on our family farm. I've served on the advisory board of the Canadian County Extension Service and on the Board of Directors for our rural fire association. My wife, Linda and I, with our two sons, Tyler and Connor, attend Saint John's Lutheran Church in Okarche, where I've served as Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Elder of the congregation.

In my different roles serving the wheat industry, I've had the chance to travel on a U.S. Wheat Board team trip to Morocco, Italy and Israel. I've had the opportunity to represent U.S. Wheat producers in Mexico and South America at the Latin American Buyers Conference and the U.S. Wheat Caribbean/Mexico Wheat Trade Conference.

These conferences have been instrumental in helping establish our footprint within the international marketplace, and have given me opportunities to be a part of assemblies; including the recent unveiling of the La Moderna shuttle train facility located in Villagran, Guanajuato, Mexico. I believe these trade meetings are a necessity for our industry that will only continue to be more important when working to out-market our competition. My personal observation is if we don't take the time to be involved in the marketing of our product, no one else is going to! In my travels, it's apparent to me that our foreign competitors are placing more emphasis on international marketing efforts than they did 10 to 15 years ago. This makes the work of our state commissions and U.S. Wheat Associates even more imperative!

Moving forward, I see the importance of continued research for product development initiatives for all wheat classes. Recently, the OWC became a member of the Wheat Marketing Center in Portland, Oregon. In Oklahoma, we've seen firsthand the benefits of a new pasta line that has been created with Hard Red Winter wheat for a local fresh noodle pasta maker. We've also had success with tortilla developments on new wheat varieties just released from Oklahoma State University. All of this has been made possible by testing conducted through research and innovation with this organization. I look forward to continued work with the WMC, while serving on their financial committee. In addition to all the wonderful opportunities I've experienced while serving the wheat industry, I feel privileged to be able to work beside each one of you, though it might be on different committees or within different agricultural organizations, while also serving U.S. Wheat. I cannot believe a better way to have spent these past six years and certainly could not have found better people to have been associated with. It's with great enthusiasm that I also want to thank all the staff members within the state organizations and within U.S. Wheat Associates for the countless hours they spend working to make our industry the best nationally and internationally. I would greatly enjoy the opportunity to serve as a U.S. Wheat officer in 2020, and kindly ask for your support as we work together in partnership on continued efforts in making all classes of U.S. wheat the best globally!

Sincerely,

Michael F. Peters

